

from a gaol or a lockup, when they had to travel perhaps hundreds of miles, the object of the clause would be defeated. There would be no punishment at all. The month would have expired before he reached his prison. The clause said "not exceeding one month." A magistrate need not give two months in every case, but only where he thought it was necessary in the interests of justice.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said the hon. member informed them there would be no imprisonment at all if the native did not get as far as the gaol within his month. What generally happened in these cases? The native, when caught, or sentenced, had a chain put round his neck, and was marched down by easy stages, and tied to a tree at night. He thought that after a month of that treatment a native was more badly treated than the white man who had been in gaol for that time.

CAPTAIN FAWCETT: Quite as much punishment as being in prison.

MR. GRANT thought it might be left to the discretion of the magistrate to give one month or two, according to the distance from a gaol.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): That would be apportioning punishment not according to the nature of the offence but the distance of the offender from gaol. Surely the hon. member does not mean that.

The amendment was negatived, and the clause put and passed.

Schedule agreed to.

Preamble and title agreed to.

Bill reported.

The House adjourned at twenty minutes past midnight.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Tuesday, 31st August, 1886.*

Land Regulations: Reply to Governor's Message (No. 3)—Loan Estimates, 1887: in committee—Committee of Advice, Audit Act: Election of—The Rev. B. Gribble and His Honor the Chief Justice—Supreme Court Act, 1880, Amendment Bill: second reading; in committee—Federal Council Reference Bill: second reading; in committee—Swan River Mechanics Institute Mortgage Bill: second reading; in committee—Appropriation Bill, 1887: second reading; in committee—Barristers Admission Bill: second reading; in committee—Completion of Public Offices (including General Post Office)—Law and Parliamentary Library Committee: Election of member—High School: Election of Governor—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at noon.

PRAYERS.

LAND REGULATIONS: REPLY TO HIS EXCELLENCY'S MESSAGE (No. 3).

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest), in accordance with notice, moved "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, informing His Excellency that this House, having carefully considered His Excellency's Message No. 3, forwarding a draft code of Land Regulations for its consideration, begs to submit, for approval, the accompanying complete set of Land Regulations, which it hopes may, if approved, be proclaimed as soon as possible."

Question—put and passed.

LOAN ESTIMATES, 1887.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright), in moving the House into committee for the consideration of the Loan Estimates for 1887, said it would be observed that they included a sum of £60,000 for the extension of the telegraph line to the goldfields and to Wyndham; also the sum of £12,500 appropriated for jetty extension at Fremantle; and £7,000 for a water supply for that town. The other items on the Estimates spoke for themselves. It was estimated that at the end of 1887 the unexpended balance would be £2,000 voted some time ago for a jetty at Eucla—as to which nothing had been done; £2,500 for Government House Domain, with which nothing of any practical use could be done; and £1,300 for Mandurah

Breakwater, with regard to which he might make the same remark.

Item: *Salaries*, £4,401:

MR. PARKER asked whether this item showed all the allowances received by these officers? He had been told that the Resident Engineer (Mr. H. E. Parry), in addition to a salary of £450 and £140 allowance, also received £50 a year in lieu of medical attendance.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): That is so. He received it before I came here. Mr. Clayton Mason, when he was the Resident Engineer, received the same allowance for some reason or other,—because, I believe, the doctor said he was not on the staff; and, when he resigned, the same allowance was granted to Mr. Parry.

MR. PARKER: What then is the allowance paid out of? It does not appear on these Estimates.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Paid out of whatever work he may be on.

MR. MARMION: Out of loan money?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): When employed on loan works.

MR. PARKER: Then this statement does not show all the allowances that these officers of the Works and Railways receive. I am perfectly convinced that no one in this House was aware that Mr. Mason ever drew £50 a year for medical attendance; and, even if he were entitled to it, it seems to me an exorbitant allowance—£50 a year for medical attendance for one officer.

MR. GRANT: At the risk of being sat on by the *West Australian* for making any remarks upon these salaries, I must say a few words about this matter. A few years ago this young man (Mr. Parry) was only a sort of apprentice in the Survey Department, or the Railway Department, and now because he happens to be a Bishop's son and a son-in-law of the Colonial Secretary he is receiving a bigger salary than the Postmaster General. With allowances he receives £640 a year. It is an imposition upon the colony. It just shows how all the good things of the service are kept for those nearest home.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): I cannot

allow such a statement as that to pass unchallenged. I consider, although this officer has the misfortune of being a Bishop's son and the son-in-law of the Colonial Secretary, he is one of the most valuable officers the colony possesses. He does his duty thoroughly, and, so far from being an "imposition," he is as excellent an officer as there is in the service; and I have every confidence in him.

MR. SHENTON: All the allowances for public officers have to be voted by this House, and if this officer has been receiving £50 a year for medical attendance, and this House has never voted the money, it is not a legal payment. I know the subject never came before the Finance Committee.

MR. MARMION: May I ask if there is another instance of any officer in the service receiving £50 a year for medical allowance?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): I am not aware of it. I was not aware of this until the other day.

MR. SHENTON: Nor anybody else, I think.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): He received it before I came.

MR. MARMION: What is the £140 for his other allowances intended for? I suppose he travels by railway free.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): The same allowance and the same salary appeared on last year's Estimates, and the year before. There is no increase.

MR. MARMION: I don't hesitate to say that the salary and allowance are a great deal too much, and I believe that is the feeling of many other members. It brings this gentleman's emoluments up to something more than what the General Manager receives, and very nearly what the head of the department receives; and, although it is an unpleasant thing to have to say, I do not hesitate to state that it is more than his services are worth; and that I believe is the opinion of many other members.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): I can simply say this: that probably I ought to know a little more about it than the hon. member does, and that I do not

consider that it is more than his services are worth. I consider that when you get a really good man you ought to pay him, and pay him well; and I do not consider this officer overpaid at all.

MR. SHOLL: It strikes me that if we have to pay salaries like we are now paying to these Resident Engineers—one gets £640, another £540, another £480, and another £420—we shall very soon have to raise another loan to pay them; and, for my part, I mean to move that the allowances of the first named officer be reduced by £100.

MR. SHENTON: Seeing that no one in this House ever knew that this officer or his predecessor was receiving anything in the shape of £50 medical allowance, I certainly think we might strike off £40, thus reducing his other allowances from £140 to £100.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): I may say that he will cease to draw that £50.

MR. MARMION: From what date?

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith): At once. He will be told that he will get the same allowances as other officers.

MR. MARMION: What are these allowances for?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): His work compels him to be constantly away from home. He is not at home more than a day in the week, and very often not that, and he has to keep a horse and trap,

MR. MARMION: What does he want a horse and trap for, when he travels on the railway for nothing?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): He cannot travel on railways that are not made. How is he to superintend the construction of the Northam line, for instance, and the Newcastle line, when these lines are not yet made.

MR. SHENTON: It seems to me that as soon as an officer gets transferred to Loan Account his salary is increased about 75 per cent. I think all Government officers ought to try and get upon these Loan Estimates.

The subject then dropped.

MR. MARMION, referring to the item "H. S. Carey, surveyor; salary, £350; allowances, £150—total, £500," asked if it was the intention of the Government

to recognise in any special manner the services of this officer in connection with the extension of the Northern telegraph line to Roebourne? On a previous occasion the House recognised the services of another officer who was connected with the construction of the Eucla telegraph line; and he thought he might say, without being invidious, and without fear of contradiction, that Mr. Carey had conducted the construction of this Northern line with the greatest possible zeal and energy, and with every attention to the interests of the colony; and he believed he was as much entitled to the thanks of this community as the gentleman who so very successfully superintended the construction of the Eucla telegraph line. He would like to ask whether it was the intention of the Government to recognise the services of Mr. Carey, either by a gratuity or otherwise?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said, while perfectly agreeing with everything the hon. member had said—he could not speak too highly of the way in which Mr. Carey had carried out the work; the hardships he had to go through and the privations he had to endure had completely broken down his health, not particularly strong at any time—and he could only say it was a very great pity for the colony that such was the case; but, while perfectly agreeing with all that had been said, the Government had no intention at all events of recognising his services in a more substantial manner than fully appreciating the value of those services.

MR. SCOTT thought Mr. Carey's case was one of those cases that could not fail to command the sympathies not only of the Government but of every member of that House; and he hoped some substantial recognition of his services would be made.

MR. SHENTON said, considering the privations Mr. Carey had gone through, especially between the Gascoyne and Sharks Bay, and the admirable way in which he had carried out his duties, he thought he was fairly entitled to some recognition.

MR. PARKER: May I ask the Director of Public Works whether there is any balance out of the money appropriated for this Northern telegraph line?

**THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS** (Hon. J. A. Wright): There is a balance of about £1,500.

**MR. SHOLL** quite endorsed what had fallen from previous speakers. Had it not been for Mr. Carey's indomitable pluck on several occasions the Government would have been seriously inconvenienced. Mr. Carey stuck manfully to his work when others had to leave it, and was really deserving of some substantial recognition.

**MR. McRAE** said he quite agreed with all that had been said about Mr. Carey. He had an opportunity on several occasions of meeting Mr. Carey on his arduous overland journey, and he could speak with every confidence when he said that had it not been for Mr. Carey's indomitable energy the construction of the line would have been much delayed.

**MR. GRANT** had much pleasure in supporting the proposition that Mr. Carey should be substantially rewarded. He fully deserved all they could give.

**THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS** (Hon. J. Forrest) would like to say a word,—not in any way to oppose the proposal, for he believed that, like all the work done by Mr. Carey, he had done this thoroughly, to the best of his ability, and devoted all his energy to it. He was glad to find hon. members on the other side of the House inclined to recognise good service when they saw it. Of course this officer was receiving a good salary while he was engaged on the work. The emoluments of his office were at the rate of £682 10s. a year and his expenses,—a very good salary he thought, for a colony like this, although he was quite prepared to admit it was an important service, and a service requiring a great amount of energy and good judgment to carry out properly. Still there were other services that had been undertaken in the colony, not less arduous, not less important, and requiring the exercise of quite as much judgment, and care, and ability, and energy, that he had never heard anything said of in that House. He referred to the services of the survey expedition conducted from Derby through the Kimberley district to Wyndham, by an officer of this Government, through unknown country, where there were no supplies, and where there were very great

dangers to be encountered. He only mentioned this just to show that there were services sometimes performed without much ostentation, services that were very valuable and of great importance to the colony. Having said this, he in no way wished to detract from the value of the services performed by Mr. Carey, for, as he said before, he believed that in performing any work Mr. Carey was engaged in he would perform it thoroughly, and with all his energy.

**MR. PARKER** said it appeared to be the general wish on that side of the House that Mr. Carey's services should be recognised by the Government in some substantial form. Although that House was not prepared to go out of its way to recognise that a public servant simply doing his duties zealously and energetically was for that reason entitled to any special recognition, still, he thought, taking the special circumstances of this case into consideration—the privations suffered, the difficulties surmounted, the indomitable pluck shown in the face of adverse circumstances, the shattered health of the officer performing these duties in the interests of the colony—he thought, in the face of all these circumstances, Mr. Carey was fairly entitled to some pecuniary recompense. Under these circumstances, and without in any way wishing to detract from the value of the work referred to by the Commissioner of Crown Lands, he would suggest that the Government should pay Mr. Carey a sum of £300 out of the unexpended balance of this loan money. He could quite understand the Colonial Secretary not being prepared to assent to this proposal at once; but, if the hon. gentleman would undertake to consult His Excellency about it, and do what he could in the interests of this officer, it would afford satisfaction to the members sitting on that side of the House.

The House at this stage adjourned for lunch. On resuming,

**THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY** (Hon. M. S. Smith) informed the House that during the adjournment he had seen His Excellency the Governor on the subject, and had communicated to him that it was the evident desire of hon. members that Mr. Carey's services should be recognised in some special way; and His Excellency, he was happy to say, had

directed him to acquaint the House that he approved of the sum of £300 being granted to Mr. Carey.

MR. MARMION asked whether the unexpended sum of £2,500 appropriated out of loan money for "Government House and Domain" was to be wiped off altogether?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Not at all. It will have to be supplemented before the required improvements can be undertaken; but the Government do not intend to ask for any additional sum for this work now. The same remark applies to the money lying to the credit of the Mandurah breakwater (£1,300)—an expenditure which has been condemned by Sir John Coode as likely to result in permanent injury to the estuary.

MR. RANDELL said he had a communication from a gentleman the other day who was acquainted with the Murray estuary, and he gathered from him that the settlers were very much satisfied with the result of the small efforts already made in the direction of improving the estuary, and that the work gave promise, if carried out, of resulting in permanent good to the river; and he understood there was documentary evidence in possession of an hon. member of that House showing that it was the desire of the settlers that the work should be proceeded with. Under these circumstances, he could hardly understand why the money available should not be expended in the way it was recommended it should be by the committee. He had seen the river mouth himself, and he had had some experience at other places, and he thought the work might be carried out successfully. He thought there was too much of a desire to exaggerate the difficulty of the work; and he thought the residents of the district had a right to have the money that had been appropriated for the work expended.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright) said that on two or three occasions he had already explained that the expenditure of this small sum of money on the Mandurah breakwater would be worse than useless. In that opinion he was confirmed by at least one eminent authority—Sir John Coode. But it appeared there were certain amateur engineers who (to para-

phrase a well-known line) were prepared to rush in where more eminent members of the profession feared to tread. He could only say again that to attempt to carry out the work as originally proposed, with this small sum of money, would result in blocking up the harbor altogether.

CAPTAIN FAWCETT: No.

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): Then I leave it entirely to the gallant and eminent amateur engineer, the member for the district.

MR. SHENTON, referring to the item "Water Supply, Fremantle, £7,000," said he noticed that the estimated balance at the end of the present year was *nil*. Was it proposed to take this work in hand at once, and have it finished by the end of the year?

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS (Hon. J. A. Wright): I hope it will all be spent this year.

The House having resumed,

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES reported that the committee had considered the Loan Estimates for 1887, and agreed to supplies amounting to £174,400.

COMMITTEE OF ADVICE: AUDIT ACT.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith), in accordance with notice, moved that the House do now proceed to elect by ballot a Committee of Advice under the Audit Act.

Question—put and passed.

Members having delivered to the Clerk the list of members to serve on such Committee, the Clerk reported to the Speaker the following members as having the greatest number of votes:—Mr. Marmion, Mr. Shenton, Mr. Parker, and Mr. Loton.

THE REV. J. B. GRIBBLE AND HIS HONOR THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

MR. HARPER said that, before proceeding with the orders of the day, he wished to move, with leave, without notice, a resolution. A short time ago he received a letter from a member of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria, enclosing an extract from the *Daily Telegraph*, a paper published in Melbourne, containing some extraordinary statements affecting this colony and its people,

made and published by Mr. Gribble,—statements which, as his correspondent pointed out, if true, were most damaging to the colony and almost everybody in it, from the Governor downwards, and which, if not true, ought to be refuted, and the circulator of them punished. He had looked through the newspaper extract, and amongst the statements alleged to have been made by Mr. Gribble was one in which he stated that he had received a letter from the Chief Justice of the colony, expressing sympathy with his action and a belief in the righteousness and justice of his cause—the cause of Mr. Gribble and the natives, and their treatment by the settlers of this colony. As he (Mr. Harper) thought it was highly improbable that Mr. Gribble had ever received such a letter from the Chief Justice; and as he thought it was particularly desirable, in the interests of truth and in the interests of the public, that His Honor should have an opportunity of refuting this statement, published by the Melbourne press, he had thought it would only be right that the question should be brought before the House; and as, in view of the probability of the House being prorogued in the course of a day or two, there would scarcely be time for the necessary communications to pass, he asked, with leave, without notice, to move the following resolution:—“That ‘an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, directing attention to an article in the Melbourne *Daily Telegraph* of July last, in which the following paragraph appears under the heading ‘Slavery in Western Australia’—‘Horrible Cruelties’—‘Another interview with the Revd. J. B. Gribble:’ ‘Mr. Gribble has in his possession letters from the Chief Justice and the Attorney General of Western Australia, from the leading Ministers of the various denominations in Perth and Fremantle, in which the deepest sympathy is expressed with the object he has in view—the exposure of the cruelties practised on the native population by the white settlers in the North and North-West of the Crown colony. The Chief Justice writes:—“I believe you have right and justice on your side, and I believe and hope you will ultimately be able to prove this to be the case.’ And this House

“prays that His Excellency the Governor nor will be pleased to ascertain from His Honor the Chief Justice whether it is a fact that he ever wrote a letter to the Rev. J. B. Gribble containing the words quoted as his, or any words which would bear that construction.” The hon. member said he thought it would be only fair that the House should have an opportunity of hearing from His Honor the Chief Justice whether such a letter was ever written by him to Mr. Gribble, or whether it conveyed the meaning attached to it by Mr. Gribble. He might say for his own part that he could not and did not believe that His Honor would have written such a letter, or express such views, from his high position in the colony. He was the more strongly led to disbelieve it from the attitude which His Honor assumed on a former occasion, when he occupied a seat in that House as Attorney General, and when some other malicious articles were published in the press of the other colonies, attacking the settlers here with reference to the native question. He found on reference to *Hansard* for the year 1882 (Vol. VII, p. 88) that Mr. Brown, the then sitting member for Geraldton, called the attention of the House to certain telegrams and correspondence from Perth which appeared in the *Adelaide Observer* and the *Australasian*, stating that the native question at the Gascayne and Murchison was still agitating the public mind, and that the press here condemned the attitude which the settlers held towards the natives, against whom they were represented to have committed offences of a most serious character. The whole correspondence was regarded as a malicious libel upon the colony, and the hon. member for Geraldton moved a resolution on the subject, which gave rise to a long debate, the House unanimously adopting the resolution. The Attorney General (now the Chief Justice) who, in virtue of his position as the law officer of the Crown, might be considered to have had special opportunities of knowing what amount of truth there was in the allegation published as to offences committed by settlers upon the natives, made a short but pointed speech, a portion of which he would read:—“The Attorney General (Hon. A. C. Onslow)

"thought that so far as it concerned individual members of the Legislature and of the Executive it would have been quite right . . . that these lying and malicious communications should have been treated with contemptuous silence; but he did not think it would be right, so far as it concerned that Council, sitting in its parliamentary capacity, to do so. Therefore, he thought the hon. member for Geraldton had acted very properly in moving this resolution, and he for one would give it a most cordial support. He did not know, however, whether any good could come out of this action on the part of the House, but he was very sorry indeed to find that there was in Perth, or in the colony, a person capable of writing such malicious rubbish as that to which their attention had been called; and he only regretted there was no means of inflicting condign punishment upon this sort of nefarious reptile—he could call him by no other name." Looking at what fell from His Honor on that occasion, he could not believe he had ever written this letter to Mr. Gribble; and there was further evidence which he found in the extract from the *Daily Telegraph* that had been forwarded to him, which went to satisfy him that it was highly improbable that the Chief Justice of the colony would ever have written this letter to Mr. Gribble. Among other atrocious statements made, was one to which he thought every member of that House would be able to give its proper name. In reviewing the state of society in Western Australia, the newspaper in question, on Mr. Gribble's authority, said there were men now in the Legislative Council of the colony who had actually been charged with murder, but acquitted. He did not think he need say any more to show the maliciousness of these statements, and he hoped the House would agree with him that some steps ought to be taken to refute such calumnies.

MR. CROWTHER said he would support the motion, for, like the mover, knowing the Chief Justice was a gentleman, he could not conceive that he ever said or wrote such a letter, bearing anything like the meaning placed upon it

by this once reverend gentleman. He thought this Gribble affair was becoming the battle-ground for a stand-up fight betwixt the Church and the settlers, and he was very sorry for it. This man had maligned everybody in the colony, from his own Bishop downwards. Neither the Governor on his throne nor the shepherd in his hut escaped his poisonous shafts; and what was it all for? Simply to court notoriety, simply to catch the ear and to tickle the fancy of Exeter Hall, and to catch the pence that flowed from such cant. As for any nobler thoughts—as for any desire to Christianise, or to elevate, or to improve the condition of the natives, such thoughts never entered the man's head. All he sought for was notoriety—notoriety, and what was to be gained through it. The man's whole conduct from first to last showed that; and how he could have been tolerated so long was beyond his comprehension. Although not belonging to the same branch of the Church as Bishop Parry, he would say this of him: if a man could not get on with the present Bishop of Perth there must be something radically wrong about him; and there was something radically wrong about the Rev. J. B. Gribble. He was very much afraid—and he was sorry for it—that having come in contact with the pitch, even the good Bishop himself had not escaped a little defilement, and the statements which were conveyed to them by recent telegrams from England were calculated to give some colour to such an impression. This man had fooled his own Bishop like he was fooling the press of the other colonies. Did ever such mendacious twaddle emanate from the pen of man before, as was contained in this *Daily Telegraph* rubbish? The whole thing ought to be published in pamphlet form, so that the people of the colony might see themselves as their friend the Gascoyne missionary painted them. The statements which the man put in the mouth of the Governor of the colony himself stamped the man as a fool or a liar, and showed what a really dangerous lunatic he was. Among other statements made was that when he urged for the interference of the Governor, His Excellency said: "It is not for me to say who shall be a black girl's lover." Was that likely? Was it not rather an audacious lie? As for the settlers of the

North, they were simply murderers and lustful debauchees according to the Rev. J. B. Gribble. Such atrocious charges, such wanton libels, such tissues of falsehood, he had never read nor heard of; and how any respectable paper, or how any sensible editor of a paper, came to publish them without making some inquiries was beyond his comprehension.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) said the Government did not intend to oppose the motion of the hon. member for York, simply for this reason: they were of opinion that it was necessary these gross calumnies which had been heaped upon the community at large should be in a measure sifted and that those who had been guilty of making these statements should be made some way or the other to prove the truth or to demonstrate the falsehood of their assertions. He thought the time had really arrived when something should be done in that direction; and for that reason the Government did not intend to oppose the motion.

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) wished merely to draw the attention of hon. members—and he did so entirely in his capacity as a member of the House, and in no way as representing the Government—he wished merely to ask hon. members whether it was wise that, merely upon newspaper report and an extract from a letter, they should bring the force of that House to bear upon a gentleman occupying the position of the Chief Justice. They had not the letter itself before them, they did not know what it referred to; they simply had an extract from some communication or other made on some occasion or other—or said to have been made—by the Chief Justice to this Mr. Gribble, simply to the effect that he sympathised with the object that he had in view, namely, the exposure of cruelty. If that was the object in view, why, he supposed they would all sympathise with him. He thought it would be unwise—and he appealed to hon. members whether they did not think it would be unwise—to seek to bring the force of that House to bear upon our highest judicial functionary, upon the strength of a mere extract from a letter—a private letter probably—written they did not know

when, or upon what occasion, and when they knew nothing of the substance of the letter. For his own part, he thought that before they took such a step they should be very careful to ascertain what position they were in.

MR. RANDELL said he had not opposed the hon. member for York bringing forward his motion without notice, but he thought it was exceedingly undesirable that a resolution involving serious considerations like this should be sprung as it were upon the House. He had some little acquaintance with what the hon. member proposed to do, before the adjournment for lunch, but he thought the notice was too short, and that the House should have more time to consider the course it should adopt in relation to a motion of this kind. Expressing his own opinion upon the motion, he thought it would be extremely injudicious and improper on the part of the House to adopt the course which this motion asked them to adopt, and request the Governor to elicit from the Chief Justice of the colony whether he wrote a letter containing an extract published in a newspaper report. In the first place he did not know whether the Governor would accede to their wish—he should think His Excellency would consider it highly improper—he hoped so—that was his private opinion, and it was a very strong one—he did not think that the Governor would ever consent to address such a question to the Chief Justice, asking him if he had written this private letter to Mr. Gribble. This affair concerning Mr. Gribble—he was saying nothing of Mr. Gribble himself now—had been made too much of altogether in his opinion; it had exalted him to a position altogether unworthy of the man and of his utterances; and he had no hesitation in saying that he thought they were lowering the dignity of the House in taking up a motion of this kind, issuing an address to the Governor requesting him to go with an insult to the Chief Justice. He for one should entirely and strongly oppose it, and he hoped such a resolution would never be carried. There were other means of eliciting the truth of the matter, and he thought those means might be resorted to without the Legislative Council taking this extreme course, which he ventured to think



would not be adopted in any other Legislature, either in the colonies or in England. He felt very strongly upon this matter, and it struck him there were some features about it which were to be deplored—he had some hesitation in speaking of the matter, some delicacy in referring to it—he should not like to say anything which perhaps he might regret afterwards. He could only say as regards the statements made by Mr. Gribble himself that they were, taken as a whole, unworthy of credence; his action had been most injudicious and improper, and he should think would gain for him very little sympathy from any large section of our population. When such statements were made as that the leading ministers of religion in the colony, and that the Chief Justice of the colony sympathised with him, he believed that these gentlemen had been misquoted. He may have elicited some expression of opinion that if cases of injustice, and wrong, and cruelty, had been perpetrated upon the natives, it was only right that they should be brought to light; and to that extent every right-minded man in the community would sympathise with him. But they were asked to take these extracts without the context, and when they might in no way convey the true meaning of those who wrote them. That Mr. Gribble had on his side the sympathy of some portion of the community, he had no doubt. He believed there were strong sympathisers with him in Perth and other parts, who believed that wrongs had been perpetrated at the North, and that there were evils still in existence which required the light of public opinion to be brought to bear upon them, to confirm or to remove such impressions. He hoped the House would not adopt the motion of the hon. member for York, especially as it had been brought before them at so short a notice, and that the House would pause before committing itself to it, and consider the position they were asked to take up in asking the Governor of the colony to go to the Chief Justice requesting to know whether he had written this or that letter, of which the House knew nothing except from mere hearsay, based upon a newspaper extract.

MR. PARKER could not help agreeing with the hon. member, Mr. Randall,

that a great deal too much had been made of this Gribble affair. He thought if the House had treated it with silent contempt it would have been the better course to pursue,—though of course there would be differences of opinion on a question like this. This Mr. Gribble, it appeared, was travelling about the other colonies, parading these atrocious libels in the eyes of our neighbours, and in the public newspapers of Melbourne, Adelaide, and Sydney; and it might be a question whether it was not the duty of someone to refute such calumnies, such lying charges as he was making against the settlers of the colony. It was not only the settlers but everyone from the Governor downwards that was being maligned, the Executive Council, the Legislative Council, the Magistracy, and the settlers generally. According to Mr. Gribble they were all tarred with the same brush, there was not a white sheep in the whole flock; all had combined together in an unholy alliance to ill-treat the poor native. Really he himself thought it would have been better to have treated the man with silent contempt. But the question they had submitted to them now was not whether they should treat Mr. Gribble with silent contempt, but whether the Chief Justice of the colony,—as Mr. Gribble said he had—not only expressed his sympathy with him but said he believed he had right and justice on his side, and that he hoped he would ultimately be able to prove that to be the case. So that they were not now dealing with Mr. Gribble, but with the Chief Justice of the colony; and he thought it was only right and fair, having brought this motion forward—perhaps it would have been better not to have brought it forward at all—but having brought it forward, he thought it would be only right and fair that they should give the Chief Justice an opportunity of refuting it, or at any rate of explaining what the words referred to. They might have referred to nothing connected with this native question at all. He hoped so,—he believed so—because really it was a gross charge to make against the Chief Justice that he wrote to a person who might probably be a suitor in his Court that he believed he had right and justice on his side,—that he (the Chief Justice) had already made

up his mind that he (Mr. Gribble) had right and justice on his side. If any magistrate were to write such words to a person who might probably come before him, it would be grossly improper; but for the Chief Justice, who might possibly have to decide and adjudicate upon a suitor's case to write to him that he believed he had right and justice on his side would be still more improper, to his mind; and he firmly believed himself that there was an explanation, and a satisfactory explanation, and that if His Honor the Chief Justice ever did write these words attributed to him—which he doubted—it would be seen that they had no relation whatever to the native question, but to some matter affecting Mr. Gribble himself. He thought, under the circumstances, they ought to give the Chief Justice an opportunity of refuting them, if he wished. It was quite probable that the Governor might decline to do anything in the matter, and, even if he did, it would be quite competent for the Chief Justice to stand upon his rights, and decline to bow down to the Legislative Council and answer any question they might like to put to him. If his Honor did so, he would be acting quite within his rights, and they would have no remedy. But they might give him an opportunity of refuting the statement, if he thought proper. The hon. member for Greenough said this matter had come to be regarded as a fight between the Church and the people. He thought the hon. member when he said that must have forgotten that the Church had completely thrown over Mr. Gribble. The Church no longer recognised him as their missionary in any way. He had been discharged from their service as unworthy of further trust or confidence. It was therefore not fair to assume that the Church had taken up any hostile attitude against the settlers in this matter, and taken the side of Mr. Gribble. Mr. Gribble had attacked the Church authorities, from the Bishop downwards, as much as he had attacked other people. He somewhat regretted that this motion had ever been brought before the House, but, having done so, he thought it would be better perhaps now to let it proceed—better in the interests of all parties; though, personally, he did

not care whether it was proceeded with or not.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL said he had not very much to say on the subject except this, that if the Surveyor General when it came to the question divided the House upon it, he should certainly follow him. There had perhaps been too much made of this Gribble affair; still when they saw the papers of the other colonies all full of these abominable stories and lies about our colony and our colonists, he thought it was very natural we should resent it, and that it was very difficult we should hold our tongues. But in regard to the Chief Justice, and this apparently private letter, which this Mr. Gribble must have been a very unscrupulous man to have made use of, he thought it would be wrong and very unwise on the part of the House to take any notice of it. There was one reason—he did not like to refer to it at length, but still members knew—there were certain “strained relations” (he might call them perhaps) between members of that House and members of the Government and the Chief Justice; and he thought that was one strong reason why they should not take this action. Besides that, if the Chief Justice did write this—which was very likely—they did not know what it referred to, or what the Chief Justice knew of Mr. Gribble when he wrote it. He thought it was very likely that he did write it, but if they were to ask him whether he wrote it or not, and he told them that what he might have written had nothing to do with them—what could they say? The Chief Justice was not responsible in any way to them, and what further action could they take? It seemed to him that the only result of their taking any action in the matter would be that the somewhat strained relations which already existed between the Chief Justice and certain members of that House and certain members of the Government would be rendered more strained than at present. He would ask the hon. member whether he thought it would be wise that they should do this.

MR. SCOTT said there were many settlers at the North who had friends outside the colony, who would feel these aspersions very much, and these young settlers themselves would be almost

ashamed to go amongst them, if these foul charges were not refuted. They were held up to the world as monsters of iniquity, and they would naturally feel some delicacy in having to meet people, who did not know them better. Every sensible man in the colony must know that they were simply lies from beginning to end, but he thought they would be only doing justice to these Northern settlers, who had been so bespattered with mud, if they were to take some steps for publicly refuting these calumnies. He thought they would only be doing justice to the Chief Justice himself to give him an opportunity of denying the statements imputed to him, in this letter.

MR. HARPER said he should just like to say one word in repudiation of the insinuation thrown out by the hon. member Mr. Randell, that there was anything whatever derogatory to His Honor the Chief Justice in the resolution. He thought he had stated as clearly as he could that if the Chief Justice ever did write this communication to Mr. Gribble, it was capable of some explanation different altogether from that put upon it by the Rev. Mr. Gribble, and that it would only be fair and right that the Chief Justice should have an opportunity of repudiating it. For his own part, as he had already said, he did not believe that, if read by the context, it would bear anything like the meaning which Mr. Gribble, to suit his own purpose, had put upon it. If it was the wish of the House that the resolution should not be proceeded with, he was quite prepared to withdraw it. [Several hon. members: No.]

The resolution was then put, and negatived, on the voices.

#### SUPREME COURT ACT, 1880, AMENDMENT BILL.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt), in moving the second reading of this bill, said the object of the bill was to facilitate appeals in bankruptcy, and in other matters, to the Full Court.

The motion was agreed to *sub silentio*. Bill read a second time.

The House then went into committee on the bill, and agreed to it without comment.

#### FEDERAL COUNCIL REFERENCE BILL.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt), in moving the second reading of this bill, said it was a short bill introduced in accordance with the Imperial Federating Act to enable the Federal Council to entertain certain questions proposed to be submitted to it, which were four: (1) The status of corporations and joint stock companies in other colonies than that in which they have been constituted; (2) the trial and punishment in one colony of offenders against the laws of an adjoining colony; (3) the general defence of King George's Sound; (4) the general defence of Thursday Island. He might say that these matters could not be considered by the Federal Council unless two or more colonies shall have referred such matters to the Council. Two of these matters had already been submitted by the Parliament of Queensland; and this colony had been asked to submit the other two, which was the object of the present bill.

The motion for the second reading was agreed to without comment.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved that the bill be now considered in committee of the whole Council.

MR. PARKER: I must say it is a very unsatisfactory proceeding going into committee on the same day as the second reading. I know there is a desire on the part of some hon. members to get away, but I think there ought to be a pause between the second reading of a bill and the committee stage.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt): The bill is in no way an intricate one, and it deals with questions that have been discussed here before, and which are mentioned in the report of the representative of the colony in the Federal Council, and we all agree they are matters that ought to be referred to the Council. The Government, however, have no wish to hurry this or any other bill through.

The motion to go into committee was then agreed to.

In committee:

Bill adopted, *sub silentio*.

# SWAN RIVER MECHANICS' INSTITUTE MORTGAGE BILL.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) moved the second reading of a bill to enable the trustees of the Swan River Mechanics' Institute to raise money on mortgage of certain lands vested in them. The hon. and learned gentleman said a similar power had been granted by that Council to other similar institutions, such as the Albany Mechanics' Institute, and several Freemasons' institutions throughout the colony.

The motion was agreed to without opposition; and the House went into committee on the bill, the various clauses being agreed to without discussion.

New clause:

MR. PARKER moved that the following new clause be added to the bill: "It shall be lawful for the trustees aforesaid, or the person or persons in whom the said lands, or any portion thereof, shall for the time being be vested, with the concurrence of three-fourths of the members of the said institute present and voting at a properly-constituted meeting of the members of the said institute, and with the consent in writing of the Governor for the time being of the colony, from time to time to demise any portions of the said lands to any person or persons upon building or other leases, for any term not exceeding twenty-one years, at such rent or rents if any, and upon and subject to such covenants, conditions, and agreements as may be approved at the aforesaid meeting by the majority aforesaid." The hon. member said the object of the clause was to enable the trustees to re-lease the waste piece of land alongside the present building and the Masonic Hall.

The clause was agreed to, *nem. con.*

Preamble and title:

Agreed to.

Bill reported.

## APPROPRIATION BILL, 1887.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY (Hon. M. S. Smith) without comment, moved the second reading of this bill, which was agreed to; and the bill passed through committee *sub silentio*.

## BARRISTERS ADMISSION BILL.

SIR T. COCKBURN-CAMPBELL, in moving the second reading of a bill to

amend the law relating to the admission of barristers, solicitors, attorneys, and proctors of the Supreme Court, said that a few nights ago the House unanimously agreed to an address to the Governor praying that he would bring in legislation with regard to the admission of practitioners to the Supreme Court of this colony based on the same lines as those adopted in South Australia and Queensland. Last night a message came down from His Excellency dealing with various matters, and amongst others this question. So far as he could recollect, all His Excellency said was that the subject would receive his consideration—he presumed His Excellency meant during the recess. He found it necessary to place himself in communication with the members of the Government immediately after the passing of the address, and he ascertained from them that they considered it would not be within their power to bring in legislation of this kind this session. They considered it would be necessary, if they brought in any measure, that it should be a comprehensive measure, and that they would have to make certain inquiries, and that in fact it was out of their power to enter into the matter during the few remaining days of the session. He perfectly concurred in their action; he did not see how they could have acted otherwise. For all that, the colony was placed in a very awkward position; for it was between this and the next session that the colony would be overrun by that very class of practitioner whom we wished very carefully to sift before they obtained admission. He found that by nearly every steamer these practitioners were coming round here. One came by the last steamer, and another, he had heard, was coming by the next, and it appeared we were likely to be regularly overrun by them. The Acting Attorney General, when speaking to this question the other night, in a very guarded speech, was very careful in what he said; but he distinctly gave them to understand that the rules and regulations at present in force, even if strictly carried out—he (the hon. baronet) did not know whether they were or not—would not protect us in the slightest degree. They were the merest farce, and, in order to exemplify what a farce they were, in comparison with

the rules and regulations which guarded the admission of barristers and practitioners in the other colonies, he might mention that a gentleman came here the other day who, he found from a paper received from Queensland, went there some time ago and applied for admission. But the rules there absolutely forbore his admission. The paper stated that the Supreme Court declined to admit him on the ground that his qualifications were not recognised by the Queensland Court. There was no reciprocity between their Court and the Court where he had come from. That gentleman came over here—he did not know whether he attempted to get admitted anywhere else on the way—and the Chief Justice expressed much pleasure in admitting him. He believed there was nothing whatever against him; he was a perfectly respectable practitioner, so far as he had heard. But it exemplified the extreme laxity of our rules. He might also mention that our late respected Chief Justice Burt, he knew, strongly fought against the alteration of the law which enabled these black sheep to enter into the profession of the law, and he prophesied, at the time, that we should find it necessary to legislate and enforce more strict provisions, regulating the admission of these practitioners. Seeing that we were likely to be overrun during the course of next year with this class of practitioners, and seeing that the Government were not able until next session to take any action in the matter, he still thought it desirable to bring in the short measure now before the House, which, in the opinion of those best able to judge, would protect us until the Government brought in a more comprehensive measure. He might say that all the well-established members of the profession, those in whom they had any confidence, had told him that they considered that, so far as it went, this measure was likely to protect the community to a considerable extent. All the highly placed members in the profession who had no interest whatever in practising, sincerely hoped the House would pass the bill, as they considered it absolutely desirable that something of the kind should be introduced. Of course there were persons—perhaps he was wrong in speaking in the plural—who derived considerable

profit from the present order of things, and they naturally objected to anything restricting the importation of practitioners. But he did not think the opinion of these persons was likely to affect the action of the House. It had been said it would be very hard upon these new comers to forbid them from practising for six months; but he hardly saw the force of that argument. If they came here after this bill was assented to, they came here on the distinct understanding that they would not be able to practise until after they had resided here for six months; and, generally, good men were not merely needy adventurers, and the fact of their not being able to earn anything for six months would not affect them very much. They would be glad, probably, of an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the laws of the colony before beginning to practise. On the other hand, the bill was likely to keep away the very class of men we wanted to keep away. He therefore hoped, after the House supporting him the other night in the address to the Governor, they would support him now in moving the second reading of the bill, which, as he said before, he only regarded as a temporary measure, until the Government brought in a more comprehensive one. He had brought it in at the instance of others, and in what he believed to be the interests of the colony. The bill simply provided that a barrister or practitioner, seeking to be admitted, must prove to the satisfaction of the Board that he has resided in the colony for a period of not less than six months, that he was a person of good fame and character, and that he had paid to the Registrar the stamp duty on admission imposed by the Stamp Act. The bill did not apply to any Crown law officer.

Mr. RANDÉLL said the bill appeared to him a piece of unnecessary legislation. An attempt was made in 1861 to regulate the admission of barristers, and that Act remained in force until 1865. The earlier Act was introduced to admit young barristers who had served five years in the colony, but that was found very inconvenient. Some gentleman came out here and found he could not be admitted, and an alteration was made in the Act to enable practitioners coming here from other places to be admitted.

It seemed to him that the Act of 1865 provided all the protection we required. As he had seen stated in the columns of the press that day, in a letter from the pen of Mr. Hensman, the legislation now proposed was something very like Protection, and in its worst form; and if the same principle were attempted to be carried out in other professions there would be an outcry against it. He did not know that the barristers and the other members of the legal profession in Perth needed protection; he did not think that the public needed protection, for they could go to whom they liked, and employ whom they liked; and no doubt they generally employed the person who in their opinion would be most likely to put their case forward in the best form to secure a verdict in their favor. He thought that to insist upon a six months residence would in most cases really be a hardship. It might operate so in the case of a man who would be an ornament to his profession; while, on the other hand, he did not think it would affect in the slightest degree the men whom we should be sorry to see admitted. He thought that to some extent it was interfering with the province and prerogative of the Court itself. He knew of no reason why they should doubt the ability of the Court to protect its purity in this respect, and also protect the interests of the public; and it seemed to him to imply a want of confidence in the machinery of the Court as at present constituted. He thought that was an objectionable feature in the bill. Another objection to the bill was that it compelled a man to remain for six months idle, when he might be employing his time to the good of himself and possibly of the community. He did not intend to offer any strenuous opposition to the bill, but he should not be a party to it in its present form; he should move that the period of residence be reduced. He thought the bill was a step in a wrong direction, and of a class of legislation that was not required in the colony at all, and he should be very sorry to see it carried out in other directions. He did not think monopolies were good in any trade or profession.

The motion for the second reading was then agreed to, and the House went into committee.

#### IN COMMITTEE.

Clause 1—"Notwithstanding anything in any ordinance, act, or law contained to the contrary, from and after the passing of this Act no person, however qualified in other respects, shall be admitted to be a barrister, solicitor, attorney, or proctor of the said Supreme Court unless and until he shall prove to the satisfaction of the Board appointed under the Barristers Act of 1881, the 45th Victoria, No. 1, that he has actually resided within the colony of Western Australia for a period of not less than six months, and that he is a person of good fame and character; and also unless and until he shall pay to the Registrar of the said Supreme Court the stamp duty on admission imposed by the Stamp Act, 1882. Provided, however, that this Act shall not apply to any person appointed to any Crown Law Office in Western Australia."

THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS (Hon. J. Forrest) said he intended to say a few words, not with the view of opposing the bill but with the view of giving his own personal views upon it. He said he was not going to oppose it, although he had understood that legislation on the subject was going to be postponed until the Government had an opportunity of further considering the matter. From what the hon. member who brought in the bill said, one would think that lawyers were a very bad lot. He had always understood that the profession of the law was looked upon as a very honorable profession, and that its members were an ornament to society; but now it appeared they were such a bad lot that we had to pass a law to protect ourselves against them, and treat them as we did diseased stock, put a check upon their importation into the colony. That seemed to him a strange state of affairs—quite a revolution in his ideas as to the legal profession. The hon. baronet said that they were coming here by every steamer, and that the last steamer brought another. So far as that gentleman was concerned, he thought the hon. member was rather unfortunate in his illustration. That gentleman was a grandson of Colonel Gawler, and came here with introductions from the Governor of South Australia. Why should

a gentleman like that be compelled to remain here idle for six months, before he could practise his profession? He thought it would be much better to wait until the Government had time to deal with this matter carefully, which he thought would be the best thing they could do. He would sooner see more stringent rules made for admission, and the qualifications raised, rather than a long term of residence. He failed to see how six months residence was going to improve the type of lawyers likely to be admitted. A man might be the greatest rascal on the face of the earth, and be a nuisance to the community; and he was sure that six months residence would not improve him. He said these few words not with any object of opposing the measure, but merely to express his own views.

THE ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL (Hon. S. Burt) said he had not risen to make any remarks upon the second reading, as the Governor in his message said that the Government could not at this late period of the session attempt to legislate on the subject, and it would only be a matter of courtesy for the Government to refer the question in the first place to the Judges, and they could not do that in a few hours. Therefore the Government could not undertake to introduce any legislation on the subject this session. As to whether the method proposed by this bill was a good method of proceeding, he might state that it was the practice in force in many of the other colonies, and, in fact, the same thing was in force in England. No practitioner could go from here to England, or to Adelaide, or Sydney, or Brisbane, and be admitted on his arrival. He merely said on the part of the Government that they had not had time to consider the subject, and to refer it to those whom it ought to be referred to, as an act of courtesy; but, still, if it was the desire of the House to have a measure passed, in order to bridge over the interval between this session and the next, the Government would not oppose it or seek to throw it out.

MR. PARKER said the Commissioner of Crown Lands told them he failed to see what good a residential clause would do, in the case of lawyers. The hon. gentleman, he believed, had introduced

the same provision dealing with surveyors who may arrive in the colony, only he made it twelve months instead of six. As to having to wait before they could practise, it might as well be said that it was a hard thing because a man had to serve his articles before he could practise. It must be remembered that not only were these new comers to reside here for six months; they had also to satisfy the Board that they were persons of good fame and character; and some time must necessarily elapse before any inquiries could be made, if such inquiries were deemed necessary. The affidavits now relied on were not of much use. Some years ago a practitioner came here from New Zealand, and, having made the usual affidavit, he was admitted to practise. Next mail the detectives were here after him from New Zealand. He did not say himself that of late any improper person had been admitted. As a rule they were persons that could not be objected to, and they were all doing very well, and they were all glad to see them. So far as he was concerned, he did not care whether the bill passed or not. Anyone could understand that the more cases there were raked up, the better it was for those who practised at the bar, and who made their living by practising at the bar. These were not numerous. So little did he think of the matter that he did not think he would even take the trouble of voting upon it. He thought it was essentially a question for the lay element. He might say however that, if the bill passed, he intended to add a clause that it shall not come into operation for two months; for he thought it would be unfair towards any gentlemen who had come here under the impression that they could be admitted within a month.

MR. VENN said he had seconded the address to the Governor, thinking it desirable that we should assimilate our laws with those of the other colonies; and he saw no objection to it at the time. But it struck him now that a compulsory residence of six months was a precious long time to find out so very little. Was it likely to be somebody's special business to institute these inquiries about a man's antecedents? He thought the period might be shortened,—say three months. Otherwise he saw no

particular objection to the bill, although he regretted the hon. member should have persisted in bringing it in when he found that the Government could not cordially support it.

The clause was then agreed to.

New Clause :

MR. PARKER moved the following new clause: "This Act shall not come into operation until the 1st day of January, 1887."

Agreed to.

Preamble and title agreed to.

THE CHAIRMAN reported that the committee had considered the bill, and agreed to it, with an amendment.

SIR T. COCKBURN - CAMPBELL moved that the report be adopted.

MR. RANDELL moved, as an amendment, that the report be adopted that day six months.

The amendment was negatived.

Report adopted.

#### COMPLETION OF PUBLIC OFFICES, INCLUDING GENERAL POST OFFICE.

MR. CROWTHER, in accordance with notice, moved, "That an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, informing His Excellency that this House, having considered the report of the Honorable the Director of Public Works on the insufficiency of the funds provided for the completion of the Public Offices in Perth in a manner worthy of the capital of the Colony, is of opinion that the Government should take such steps as may be requisite to supplement the present vote, either from loan monies or otherwise, as will ensure the commencement and completion of a building capable of meeting the requirements of the Colony for many years to come, both as regards accommodation and architectural merit." The hon. member said they were told by the Director of Public Works that the amount set apart for a General Post Office was totally inadequate for the purpose, and he thought it was the duty of the House, when possible, to see that the public buildings of the colony were somewhat in advance of the times. Our public buildings, in Perth and out of Perth, at the present moment, were no great credit to those who designed them. It appeared that the new Post and Telegraph Office—among the most important

departments in the service—would, as originally designed, be totally unfit for the requirements of the department, and the result would be, unless we went in for a finer building, we should have to enlarge it again in a few years. That would be simply throwing money away. There was this difficulty now: we did not know exactly what such a building as we wanted would cost, and it appeared to him they could do nothing else but throw the responsibility upon the Works Department to have the building done as economically as they could, and spend the money placed at their disposal to the best possible advantage. The present Post Office was a crying disgrace to the colony. There were larger mails now sent to our Northern territory than a few years ago were sent to Europe. For his own part, he thought we could not adopt a better model than the General Post Office at Adelaide.

MR. VENN said he cordially endorsed what the hon. member had said as to the necessity of providing proper accommodation; but he did not think we could adopt the Adelaide post office as our model, seeing that we had to erect our building between the two wings of the offices already erected. He did not think there had been any desire to stint the Director of Public Works in this matter; and, judging from what they could hear, they might fairly conclude that from £15,000 to £20,000 more would be wanted to make such a building of it as would meet the future requirements of the colony. He did not know exactly how far this resolution would pledge the House as regards providing funds. Were they to go to the Finance Committee for the money? It seemed to him that the Government would be quite justified in spending this amount out of revenue, if the House passed this abstract resolution. He thought himself that the money should come out of loan account, as the present vote had.

MR. RANDELL, while sympathising with the object in view, thought the resolution was rather vague and indefinite. He would sooner see the House committed to vote a sum of money next session. He apprehended that the amount now available would carry on the work until that time. He also thought they should give some indication as to what



the approximate expenditure ought to be, and, having done so, express their readiness to vote the amount next year. He himself was not in favor of the money coming out of loan; he objected to it from the first. He did not regard it as a reproductive work, like a jetty or railway, and he thought we should make an earnest effort to provide the funds out of current revenue,—say £12,000 more, which would be £2,000 of what the Director of Public Works thought would be required.

MR. SHENTON thought it was acknowledged on all hands that the present General Post Office building was a disgrace to the colony, and he thought the sooner that funds were placed at the disposal of the Government to provide another one, more suitable to our requirements and the growing business of the department, the more it would be to our credit. He thought all that was necessary at present was an expression of opinion on the part of the House that the work should be proceeded with, and that whatever extra money was required the House would be prepared to vote it. At the same time, he thought a limit ought to be placed upon the amount.

MR. PARKER moved, as an amendment, that the following words be added to the resolution: "Provided that the whole expenditure on the building does not exceed £22,000." As they had already appropriated £10,000 for the work, this would place an additional £12,000 at the disposal of the Director of Public Works.

The amendment was adopted, and the resolution in its amended form put and passed.

#### LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

MR. PARKER said that Mr. Maitland Brown having ceased to be a member of the House he had also ceased to be a member of the Law and Parliamentary Library Committee. He therefore had pleasure in moving that the hon. member Mr. Marmion be appointed to fill the vacancy.

MR. SHENTON seconded the motion, which was agreed to unanimously.

#### HIGH SCHOOL: ELECTION OF A GOVERNOR.

MR. PARKER said he regretted to state that the hon. and learned member, Mr. Burt, had resigned his seat as a governor of the High School, and it therefore became necessary for the House to appoint a successor. It was not incumbent upon them to elect a gentleman occupying a seat in that House, but he had diligently inquired whether any hon. member would desire to accept the position, and it appeared not. But there was a gentleman whose name he had much pleasure in submitting for the approval of the House, a gentleman who took a great interest in the cause of the higher education of our youthful community, and who was himself a gentleman of culture and University training, and altogether well fitted for the post. He had much pleasure in moving that Mr. John Charles Horsey James be appointed a governor of the High School.

The motion was agreed to, *nem. con.*

The House adjourned at a quarter past five o'clock, p.m.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

*Wednesday, 1st September, 1886.*

Longitude of Fremantle—Wines, Beer, and Spirits Sale Act, 1880, Amendment Bill: third reading—Kimberley Districts General Sessions Bill: third reading—Supreme Court Act, 1880, Amendment Bill: third reading—Federal Council Reference Bill: third reading—Swan River Mechanics Institute Mortgage Bill: third reading—Appropriation Bill, 1887: third reading—Barristers Admission Bill: third reading—Aborigines Protection Bill: third reading—Libellous statements published by the Rev. J. B. Gribble—Revised Loan Estimates, 1886: in committee—Amendment of Building Act—Railway to Hampton Plains—Conduct of business during the Session—Adjournment.

THE SPEAKER took the Chair at seven o'clock, p.m.

PRAYERS.